



June 18, 2014
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONNECTICUT OFFICE OF MILITARY AFFAIRS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR NAMED 'MEMBER OF THE YEAR' BY ASSOCIATION OF DEFENSE COMMUNITIES

Accepts Award at National Defense Communities Summit in DC

The Connecticut Office of Military Affairs has been honored with the 2014 Member of the Year Award from the Association of Defense Communities "for leadership and commitment to ADC, the State Advisors Council and the State of Connecticut." Executive Director Bob Ross accepted the award this month during the Defense Communities National Summit in Washington, D.C.

It is the first time a Member of the Year has been named by ADC, the nation's leading association representing U.S. communities and states with a significant military presence and their partner organizations.

"Bob is a dedicated member of our association and demonstrates the kind of leadership that supports his state and its communities but also those across the country," ADC Immediate Past President Bob Murdock said. "It is forward-looking organizations like the Connecticut OMA that have made our association a forum for 35 years for bringing together communities, states, organizations and partners around our common goals."

The Office of Military Affairs was created in 2007, following the 2005 base realignment and closure round in which the Department of Defense recommended closing the U.S. Naval submarine base in Groton. Since then, Connecticut's Office of Military Affairs has coordinated the state's innovative programs to enhance the strategic military value of the base.

"We are fortunate to have a governor and lieutenant governor who are personally involved in the things we do to support our defense communities," Ross said. "And we have commissioners across state agencies always ready to help promote quality-of-life improvements for service members and their families. I share this award with them."

Connecticut was the first state to make direct financial investments in base infrastructure, and other states are now following Connecticut's model program. Twice in recent years the base earned regional installation excellence awards as one of the Navy's top-performing bases. The Office of Military Affairs also participates directly in programs and partnerships to support service members and their families from all branches of service.

Earlier this year, Governor Malloy met with Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus to reaffirm the state will continue to build on its unprecedented partnership with the Navy and other branches of service through the Office of Military Affairs.

"Our message to service members is a simple one," Ross said. "Team Connecticut will continue to ensure that Connecticut communities are the best places to be stationed, the best places to raise a family, and the best places to retire."

As a tireless advocate for military families, Ross has worked with other state agency commissioners to resolve issues ranging from education to health care and state licenses. He is a member of the Governor's Veterans Cabinet, the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children, the Military Child Education Coalition, the Military Superintendents Liaison Committee, and the Chamber of Commerce of Eastern Connecticut Military Affairs Committee.

The Office of Military Affairs (www.ct.gov/oma) is administratively supported by the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development.

ADC (www.defensecommunities.org) is the nation's leading association representing U.S. communities and states with a significant military presence and their partner organizations. It unites the diverse interests of communities, states, the private sector and the military on issues such as protecting defense infrastructure, community-military partnerships, defense real estate, mission growth, base redevelopment, and support for military families and veterans.

#

Contact: Randy Ford, ADC, rford@defensecommunities.org, 202.822.5256 x424